

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01667 01 OF 02 150942Z

21

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 OMB-01 AID-20 NIC-01 SCCT-02 SY-04 USSS-00

CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 EB-11 CU-05 NASA-04

SCI-06 IO-14 DRC-01 /171 W  
----- 077351

O R 150910Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1227

USIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

USDOC WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DAMASCUS 1667

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BEXP, SY

SUBJECT: BOMB IN U.S. PAVILION AT DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR

SUMMARY: AROUND MIDNIGHT AUGUST 14 HOME-MADE BOMB, ESTIMATED BY SYRIAN AUTHORITIES AT BETWEEN 600 AND 1,000 GRAMS OF TNT, EXPLODED NEAR ENTRANCE OF U.S. PAVILION IN DAMASCUS FAIR. BUILDING FACADE SUSTAINED MODERATE DAMAGE; USA SIGN ON FRONT PYLON TOTALLY DESTROYED. DAMAGE TO SKYLAB MODERATELY HEAVY. ONE PAVILION GUARD AND ONE SYRIAN POLICEMAN INJURED. SYRIAN AUTHORITIES VERY UPSET AND ORDERED CORPS OF WORKMEN TO REPAIR ALL DAMAGE BEFORE SUNRISE IN CONCERTED ATTEMPT TO AVOID ANY PUBLICITY FOR BOMB ATTACK. SARG CONDUCTING FULL INVESTIGATION; THEIR PRELIMINARY REACTION IS THAT WORK MOST LIKELY THAT OF SINGLE INDIVIDUAL. END SUMMARY

1. AROUND MIDNIGHT AUGUST 14, SYRIAN GUARD AT U.S.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 01667 01 OF 02 150942Z

PAVILION NOTICED NYLON BAG, WHICH SEEMED TO BE ON FIRE,

LAYING AGAINST OUTSIDE OF SKYLAB (OUTSIDE WALL OF KITCHEN).  
ON INVESTIGATION HE DISCOVERED BAG CONTAINED BOMB WITH  
TIME FUSE. HE TRIED FIRST TO PUT OUT FUSE WITH WATER THEN  
KICKED BAG DOWN ENTRANCE RAMP WHERE IT EXPLODED UNDER ARMCO  
STEEL GUARDS WHICH HAD BEEN ERECTED AS PART OF OUR CROWD  
CONTROL MEASURES. HOLE AFTER EXPLOSION MEASURED ROUGHLY  
ONE METER IN DIAMETER AND NOT MORE THAN HALF METER IN  
DEPTH. SYRIAN OFFICIALS ESTIMATE THAT BOMB CONTAINED 600 TO  
1,000 GRAMS OF TNT. CAPT. SALTER OF DAO AMMAN AND FORMER  
BOMB DISPOSAL OFFICER, WHO VISITING DAMASCUS ON OTHER  
BUSINESS, GENERALLY AGREES WITH THIS ESTIMATE BUT BELIEVES  
AFTER VIEWING DAMAGE TO STRUCTURE BOMB SIZE MORE LIKELY TO  
BE BETWEEN 3 AND 10 POUNDS, DEPENDING ON TYPE OF EXPLOSIVE.  
PAVILION GUARD AND CIVILIAN POLICEMAN WHO STANDING NEARBY  
WERE INJURED. POLICEMAN SUSTAINED FLESH WOUND ON LEG.  
GUARD HAS INJURIES ON HIS LEGS, CHEST AND FACE. MOST SEVERE  
CONSEQUENCE APPEARS BE LOSS OF HEARING IN ONE EAR.

2. IMPACT OF EXPLOSION SHATTERED ALL GLASS WINDOWS ON  
NEARBY SOVEIT PAVILION. ON U.S. PAVILION, IT RIPPED OUT  
PART OF TERRAZZO TILE RAMP AND CINDER BLOCK WALL BUILT FOR  
CROWD CONTROL. LARGE STRUCTURE BUILT OUT FROM FRONT OF  
PAVILION TO SEPARATE ENTRANCE FROM EXIT AND ON WHICH WAS  
MOUNTED OUR SIGN "USA" HAD ALL PLYWOOD FACING ON PYLON  
BLOWN OFF, TOTALLY DESTROYING USA SIGN. PICTURE OF  
PRESIDENTS NIXON AND ASSAD ALSO DOWNED AND SPLIT IN TWO.  
FORCE OF EXPLOSION SHOOK ASBESTOS FACADE OF BUILDING,  
RIPPING HOLES IN FACADE WHERE ASBESTOS PLATES HAD BEEN  
FASTENED TO BEAMS. ONLY KNOWN DAMAGE INSIDE PAVILION  
AS FOLLOWS: SMALL PICTURES IN WINDOWS OF GENERAL MOTORS  
EXHIBIT BLOWN OUT, PLASTER IN OFFICE AREA AT OPPOSITE  
END OF PAVILION OFF WALLS, AND GLASS WINDOW SHATTERED. THERE NO  
VISIBLE DAMAGE TO TREASURES OF SPACE EXHIBIT.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01667 02 OF 02 151035Z

11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 OMB-01 AID-20 A-01 M-02 NIC-01 SCCT-02 SY-04

USSS-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 EB-11 CU-05

NASA-04 SCI-06 IO-14 DRC-01 /174 W

----- 077787

O R 150910Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1228

USIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

USDOC WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DAMASCUS 1667

3. MOST SEVERE DAMAGE SUSTAINED WAS TO SKYLAB. EXPLOSION WAS 6 TO 8 FEET FROM SKYLAB (AWAY FROM SKYLAB KITCHEN AREA). FORCE MOVED UNIT ON BASE, BROKE ALL OVERHEAD PLASTIC, BROKE AND DAMAGED MUCH INTERIOR CABINET WORK IN KITCHEN, BATHROOM AND BEDROOM, DESTROYED EXTERNAL WALL BEHIND KITCHEN SECTION, AND DAMAGED BASE SECTION UNDER KITCHEN. WE UNABLE ESTIMATE COST OF REPAIR, BUT CERTAIN THAT MAJOR RPT MAJOLURESTORATION MUST BE DONE ON WALLS, BASE AND INTERIOR BEFORE SKYLAB CAN BE USED AGAIN. PHOTOS OF SKYLAB DAMAGE BEING POUCHED.

4. MINISTER OF INTERIOR VISITED SITE IMMEDIATELY AFTER EXPLOSION. HE ORDERED AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION AND ALSO ORDERED WORKMEN TO SITE TO COMPLETELY REPAIR ALL VISIBLE DAMAGE BY 6:00 AM AUGUST 15, SO THAT "NO ONE COULD TELL BY SUNRISE THAT ANYTHING HAD HAPPENED." HE SAID, TOO, HE WAS DOUBLING GUARD ON PAVILION TO AVOID ANY FURTHER SUCH ACTION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 01667 02 OF 02 151035Z

5. WORK HAS PROCEEDED RAPIDLY. ALL DAMAGE TO USA SIGN, FACADE OF BUILDING, AND CROWN CONTROL WALLS WILL BE COMPLETELY RESTORED IN TIME FOR THURSDAY OPENING. WE ATTEMPTING TEMPORARY REPAIR TO ENABLE SHHWING OF SKYLAB THROUGH REMAINING FIVE DAYS OF FAIR. CANVASS COVERING IN GOMC CONDITION (WITH ONE UNNOTICE-ABLE BURN) AND ALREADY BACK IN PLACE. IT COVERS DAMAGE AND TEMPORARY REPAIRS FROM OUTSIDE VIEW. WITH NOVAK'S PATCHING EXPERTISE, INTERIOR VIEW WILL BE SATISFACTORY FOR SHOWING.

6. AUTHORITIES ARE VISIBLY UPSET. TWO DEPUTY DIRECTORS OF FAIR REMAINED AT PAVILIONHIHROUGHOUT NIGHT TO SUPERVISE WORK. BOTH HAVE SAID THAT SARG CONSIDERS THIS ACTION AGAINST FAIR AND NOT JUST U.S. PAVILION. THERE NO QUESTION THAT SYRIANS COVERING FULL COST OF REPAIRS AT PAVILION SITE. AT THIS POINT IN TIME, POLICE HAVE NO LEADS AS TO PERPETRATOR

OR MOTIVE. WE HAVE RECEIVED NOYZHREATS, NOR WAS ANY NOTE LEFT WITH BOMB.

7. SYRIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE SAID THEY HOPE WE WILL PROCEED AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED. THEY SAY THEY DO NOT WANT PERSONS OCIPERSONS WHO DID THIS TO HAVE SATISFACTION OF PUBLICITY. WE AGREE. IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP SPREAD OF STORY SINCE NOISE OF EXPLOSION HEARD THROUGHOUT DOWNTOWN AREA OF DAMASCUS AND WOKMEN HAVE BEEN WORKING AROUND U.S. AND SOVIET PAVILIONS ALL NIGHT. (IN THIS REGARD, WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT U.S. PAVILION CLEARLY TARGET, NOT SOVIET PAVILION.) SHOULD AND, MORE CORRECTLY, WHEN WE GET QUESTIONS FROM PRESS, WE INTEND SAY THERE WAS SOME TROUBLE ON FAIR GROUNDS LAST NIGHT AND THAT IT MORE APPROPRIATE FOR PRESS TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS TO FAIR AUTHORITIES. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO BACKGROUNDING OF DETAILS FOR PRESS IN WASHINGTON, BUT REV ND DEPT THAT SARG EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO INCIDENTS SUCH AS THIS WHICH REFLECT ON THEIR ABILITY TO CONTROL INTERNAL SECURITY. AS WITH THE ALLEGED THREAT ON SECRETARY DURING HIS FEBRUARY TRIP, SARG REACTION WILL BE VERY NEGATIVE -- AND THUS MAKE OUR SITUATION MORE DIFFICULT -- IF OUR BACKGROUNDING REFLECTS POORVT ON SARG'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN SECURITY. HOPE DEPT WILL KEEP THIS UPPERMOST IN MIND WHEN PREPARING ANY BACKGROUNDING FOR PRESS. WE HAVE HAD NO GUIDANCE FROM SYRIANS ON WHAT THEY WILL OR WILL NOT SAY, BUT PAST EXPERIENCE WOULD INDICATE THEY WILL SAY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 01667 02 OF 02 151035Z

VERY LITTLE.

8. WE PROCEEDING AHEAD FULL STEAM WITH HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PAVIAUON, WHICH ALREADY HAS REPUTATION IN TOWN AND WITH RANKING GOVT OFFICIALS AS THE MOST ACTIVE PAVILION AT FAIR -- A PAVILION CONSTANTLY HAVING GUESTS AND PROGRAMS. WE ARE ONLY THANKFUL BOMB CAME TWO HOURS AFTER FAIR CLOSED AS THERE COULD HAVE BEEN MORE SERIOUS INJURIES OF DEATHS HAD BOMB GONE OFF WHERE INITIALLY PLACED OR IN CROWDED AISLES. SCOTES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPLOSIONS, CULTURAL CENTERS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CollinP0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974DAMASC01667  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740224-0651  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740845/aaaabmrm.tel  
**Line Count:** 211  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BOMB IN U.S. PAVILION AT DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR SUMMARY: AROUND MIDNIGHT AUGUST 14 HOME-MADE BOMB, ESTIMATED  
**TAGS:** PINS, BEXP, SY, US  
**To:** STATE COM  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005